

CLAIMS

1. A method of transmitting data in which, to broadcast a block of information from a first terminal (12) to a set of destination second terminals, each of which second terminals is connected to a switch (2 to 11) of a network, the method consists of:

- transmitting the block of information from the first terminal to a broadcast module (20) in a first switch (2) which is connected directly to said first terminal,

- broadcasting said block of information from said broadcast module to switches (3 to 11) adjacent said first switch and to destination second terminals which are connected directly to said first switch, and

- receiving said block of information in the destination second terminals,

characterized in that, to transmit a block of information from the first terminal to the broadcast module, the method further consists of:

- sending a call request packet from the first terminal (12) to the broadcast module (20) of the first switch (2) to request the setting up of an X.25 virtual circuit between said first terminal (12) and the broadcast module (20) of the first switch (2), placing a broadcast request in one field of said call request packet, and

- placing the block of information to be broadcast in the data packets of the X.25 virtual circuit set up between said first terminal and the broadcast module in response to said call request packet.

2. A method of transmitting data in which, to broadcast a block of information from a first terminal (12) to a set of destination second terminals, each of which second terminals is connected to a switch (2 to 11) of a network, the method consisting of:

- transmitting the block of information from the

first terminal to a broadcast module (20) in a first switch (2) which is connected directly to said first terminal,

5 - broadcasting said block of information from said broadcast module to switches (3 to 11) adjacent said first switch and to destination second terminals which are connected directly to said first switch, and

 - receiving said block of information in the destination second terminals,

10 characterized in that, to transmit a block of information from the first terminal to the broadcast module, the method further consists of:

 - sending a call request packet from the first terminal (12) to the broadcast module (20) of the first switch (2) to request the setting up of an X.25 virtual circuit between said first terminal (12) and the broadcast module (20) of the first switch (2), placing a broadcast request in one field of said call request packet, and

20 - placing the block of information to be broadcast in the user data field of said call request packet.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that it further consists of setting up an X.25 link between the broadcast module (20) of the first switch (2) and each of the broadcast modules of the adjacent switches (3 to 11).

4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the broadcast module (20) of each switch tests whether an adjacent switch has already received a block of information to be broadcast before sending the block to it.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it consists of broadcasting a block of information to a second terminal connected to a switch

adjacent the first switch if and only if said second terminal belongs to an expected category.

5 6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it consists of broadcasting a block of information to a second terminal connected directly to the first switch if and only if said second terminal belongs to an expected category.

10 7. A method according to claim 5 or claim 6, characterized in that the expected category is that to which the first terminal belongs.

15 8. A method according to claim 5 or claim 6, characterized in that it further consists of sending from the first terminal to the switch to which it is connected a message indicating the category to which said first terminal belongs.

9. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that at least one of the terminals is external relative to the switches (2 to 11).

20 10. A broadcast module (20) for a network including network switches (2 to 11) and terminals (12) connected to said switches, said switches and said terminals being adapted to set up X.25 links between them to transmit data and said switches including broadcast modules which receive blocks of information to be broadcast to all the
25 terminals of a set of terminals and whose function is to transmit said blocks of information to all the switches which are adjacent then in the network and to all the terminals which are respectively connected directly to them,

30 characterized in that it includes:

- means for receiving a call request packet sent by a first terminal (12) to said broadcast module (20),

recognizing a broadcast request in one field of said call request packet, and then setting up an X.25 virtual circuit between said first terminal (12) and the broadcast module (20), and

- 5 - means for storing and then broadcasting a block of information to be broadcast that has been placed in the data packets of the X.25 virtual circuit set up between said first terminal and the broadcast module.

11. A broadcast module (20) for a network including
10 network switches (2 to 11) and terminals (12) connected to said switches, said switches and said terminals being adapted to set up X.25 links between them to transmit data and said switches including broadcast modules which receive blocks of information to be broadcast to all the
15 terminals of a set of terminals and whose function is to transmit said blocks of information to all the switches which are adjacent then in the network and to all the terminals which are respectively connected directly to them,

20 characterized in that it includes:

- means for receiving a call request packet sent by a first terminal (12) to said broadcast module (20), recognizing a broadcast request in one field of said call request packet; and
25 - means for storing and then broadcasting a block of information to be broadcast that has been placed in the user data field of said call request packet.

12. A broadcast module according to claim 10 or claim 11, characterized in that it further includes means for
30 determining whether a switch adjacent the switch to which it belongs has already received said block of information to be broadcast.

13. A terminal for a network including network switches and terminals connected to said switches, said switches

and said terminals being adapted to set up X.25 links between them to transmit data and said switches including broadcast modules which receive data to be broadcast to all the terminals of a set of terminals and whose function is to transmit said data to all the switches which are adjacent then in the network, characterized in that it includes means for:

- sending a call request packet from said first terminal (12) to the broadcast module (20) of a first switch (2) to request the setting up of an X.25 virtual circuit between said first terminal (12) and the broadcast module (20) of the first switch (2), placing a broadcast request in one field of said call request packet, and
- placing the block of information to be broadcast in the data packets of the X.25 virtual circuit set up between said first terminal and the broadcast module.

14. A terminal for a network including network switches and terminals connected to said switches, said switches and said terminals being adapted to set up X.25 links between them to transmit data and said switches including broadcast modules which receive data to be broadcast to all the terminals of a set of terminals and whose function is to transmit said data to all the switches which are adjacent then in the network, characterized in that it includes means for:

- sending a call request packet from said first terminal (12) to the broadcast module (20) of a first switch (2) to request the setting up of an X.25 virtual circuit between said first terminal (12) and the broadcast module (20) of the first switch (2), placing a broadcast request in one field of said call request packet, and
- placing the block of information to be broadcast in the user data field of said call request packet.